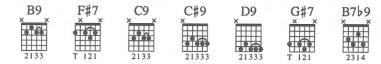
Up From The Skies

Words and Music by Jimi Hendrix



"EXP" segues into this song concerning a visiting extra-terrestrial and its queries regarding life on this planet, providing some subtle tongue-in-cheek social commentary in the process. Meanwhile, a "jazzy" groove is laid down by a trio of Earth denizens: Mitch (with brushes in hand), Jimi (with wah-wah pedal at foot) and Noel.

Note that the guitar accompaniment throughout the verses has been reduced to a chord-chart type of format. For greater ease of reading, you'll need to refer to the chord diagrams in order to achieve the correct voicings. Incidentally, if these forms, with their numerical designations, are "alien" to you and you're curious as to their origin, then check out your library for textbooks dealing with basic harmony. Some additional information may also be found in the player's notes for "If 6 Was 9."



Gtr.1; Tune Down 1/2 Step:

Bass; Tune Down 1/2 Step:







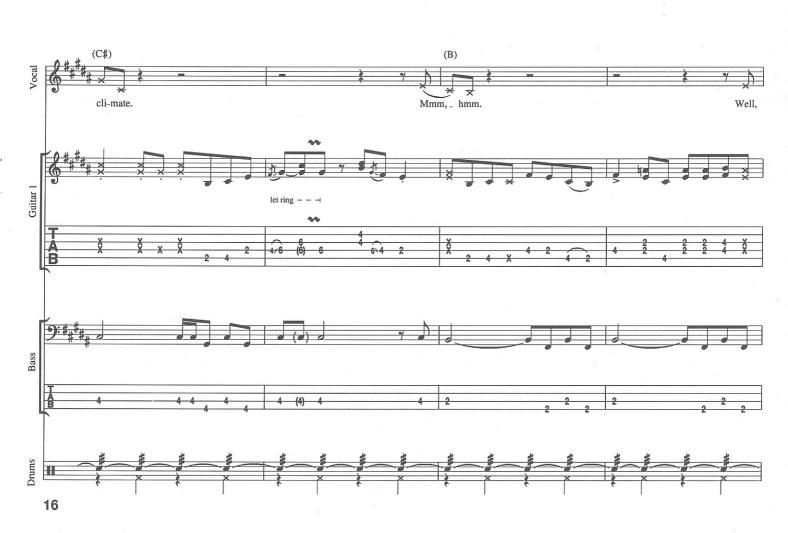






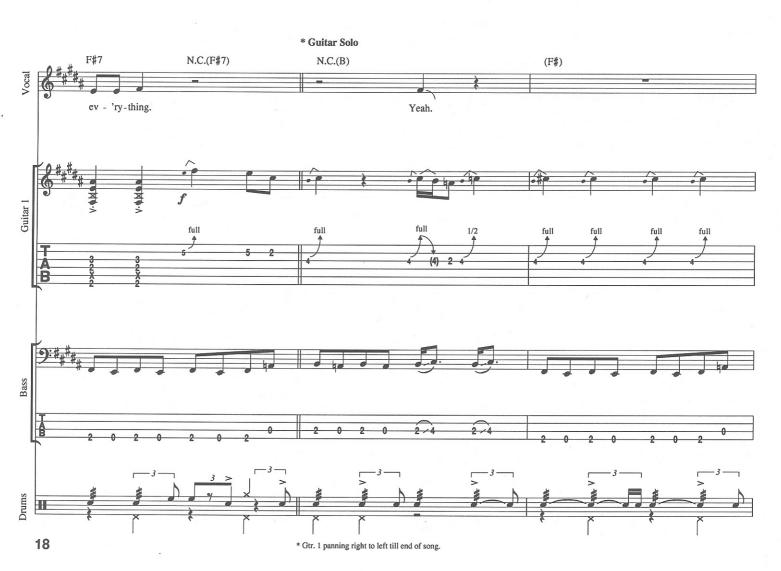


















Spanish Castle Magic

Words and Music by Jimi Hendrix

Many of Jimi's compositions were written in key signatures not normally associated with rock music. This one, for instance, is in C# minor, an apt choice, since it allows the main riff's lowest note, the flatted third, to be played on the open sixth and the open first and second strings to be used in conjunction with the C#7#9.

The chromatic progression is also fairly avant-garde for the rock idiom, but Hendrix always had a penchant for the unusual and strived to avoid blatant musical cliches. Examine any of his solos and you'll find at least one little twist or a variation on a familiar theme. Note that in "Spanish Castle Magic"'s guitar solo section there is an abundance of uncommonly bent notes, starting with a minor third bend from C# to E in the first measure at beat 4. Jimi then does some novel double-stop bends, especially the last one. There's simply a wealth of ideas to glean from this solo, so learn it verbatim and then incorporate these "gems" into your lead breaks.



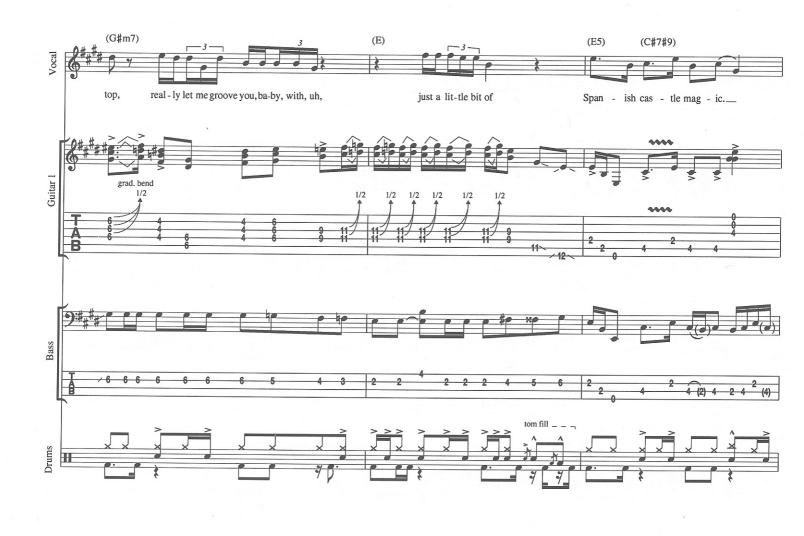








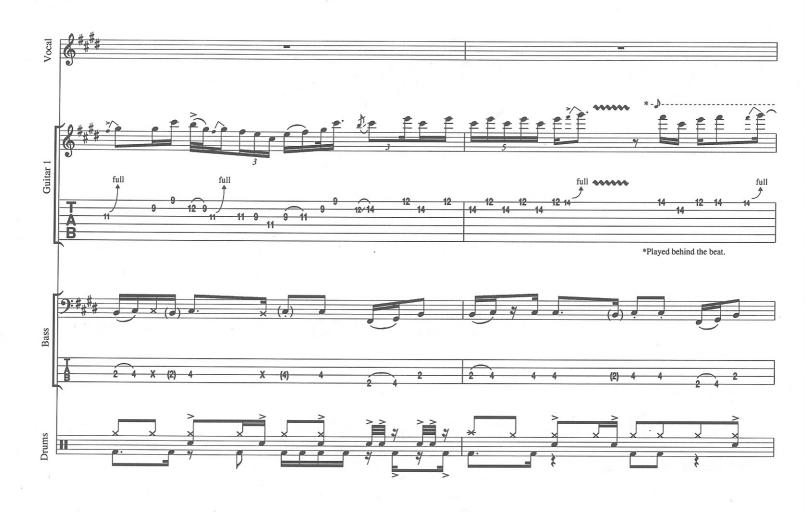






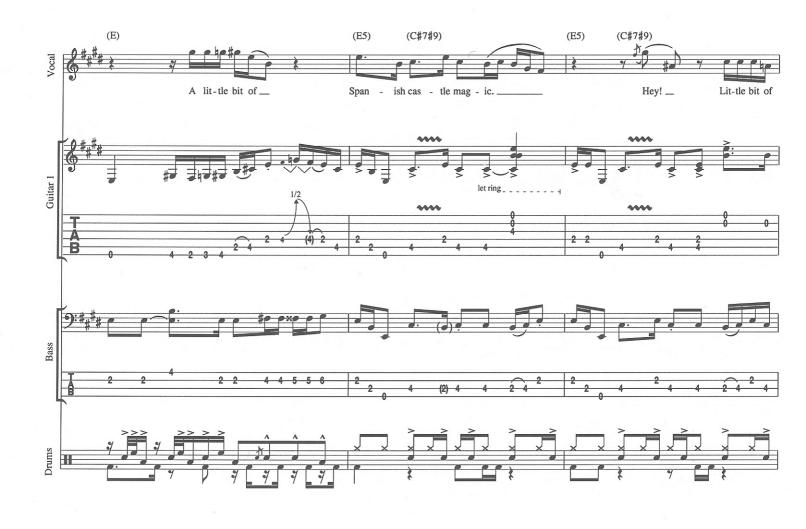






















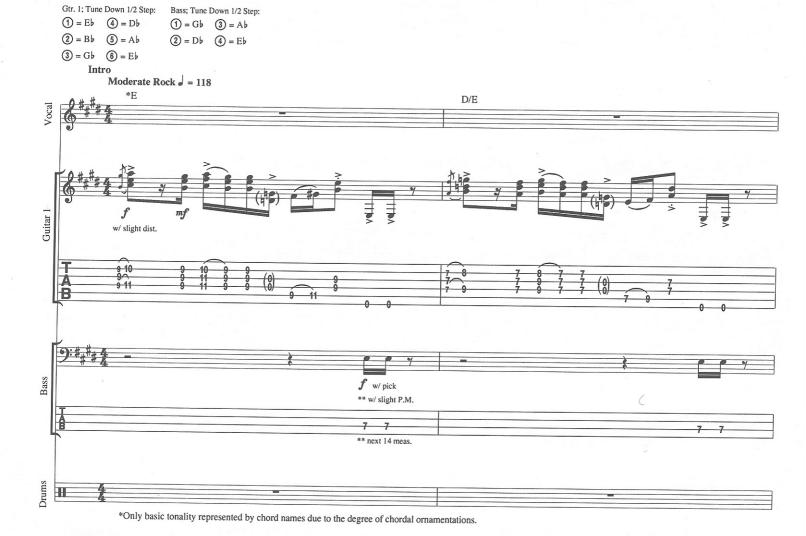
Wait Until Tomorrow

Words and Music by Jimi Hendrix

On the basis of his singular style of storytelling, both in lyric content and accompanying guitar parts, Hendrix could have been the Mark Twain of rock. For instance, note in measure 5 of the third verse that as he queries, "Do I see a silhouette . . ." the guitar seemingly says, "Uh-oh" on beat 3 with the introduction of a G major chord against A in the bass.

The use of pedal point is constant throughout the choruses. While Jimi plays figures based on the progression: I - III (E and G major), Noel's part is centered around the tonic. During the first half of this chord cycle he repeatedly plays "sliding sixths," a favorite of Steve Cropper's. This intervallic structure requires the second string to be muffled by the middle finger while it is simultaneously fretting the third string. The same technique is applicable to the playing of octaves, as in "Third Stone From The Sun" off of *Are You Experienced?* and other wide intervals.

Throughout the verses Jimi uses a rather sophisticated concept involving harmonic extensions of the dominant chord built on the fifth degree of a scale, in this case, the major scale. Since the verse modulates to A major, the root of the dominant is an E major triad (E G# B), and by placing a series of thirds above it results in an eleventh chord. Noting that other triads other than E major are within its superstructure of E G# B D F# A, it's possible to take them out of context as Hendrix does commencing with measure 2 of each verse.











































Ain't No Telling

Words and Music by Jimi Hendrix

Beginning with the "call and response" opening, you'll note there is some marvelous interplay between the guitars in this song, especially during the bridge and the instrumental interlude that follows. Throughout the bridge, guitar 1 repeats an ostinato pattern consisting of the tonic and supertonic, C# and D#, while guitar 2 "walks" with the bass. This is followed by what might be viewed as a brief modulation to the distant key of A major for the duration of a four measure contrapuntal instrumental interlude reminiscent of the bridge solo for "The Wind Cries Mary."

As in "Spanish Castle Magic," (which was in C# minor) the use of the dominant seventh with the augmented ninth, Jimi's favorite altered chord, gives this song a major/minor ambiguity since the raised ninth is enharmonic to the minor third.



Gtrs. 1 & 2; Tune Down 1/2 Step:

Bass; Tune Down 1/2 Step:

















Little Wing

Words and Music by Jimi Hendrix

Jimi's protean imagination is evident in his unique chordal style, particularly in a ballad like "Little Wing." In this context, his approach to the guitar is more like that of a pianist: Jimi breaks away from the confines of the dogmatic "rhythm or lead" method. His thumb frets the bass notes, functioning in almost the same manner as a keyboardist's left hand, and the fingers of his fretting hand can be likened to a pianist's right hand. Let's examine a few excerpts that demonstrate this piano style format and rediscover what Adrian Belew has called a "lost art."

On the first beat of measure 2, Jimi frets the root of the G major chord with his thumb, allowing it to be sustained as he follows up with the chord melody. Although the melody is within the third position form of G major, the complete chord is not fingered at any one time. Jimi usually plays dyads (double stops) and movement within these partial chords is oblique; that is one pitch is stationary. If you examine measure 6 you'll find extensive use of oblique motion.

Going to the second verse, an example of parallel motion can be found in measure 2, as the interval of a fourth is slid back and forth over a distance of a whole tone. This idea based on the major pentatonic scale also appears in the coda to "The Wind Cries Mary."

The unusual tonal quality of Jimi's guitar is characteristic of the pickup combination known as the "out-of-phase" mode (see text for "One Rainy Wish"). The ethereal effect beginning with measure 6 is the result of playing through a unit associated with organists, the rotating speaker cabinet or "Leslie." Actually, it's the speaker baffle that moves, creating slow or fast vibration on the principle of the Doppler effect.





















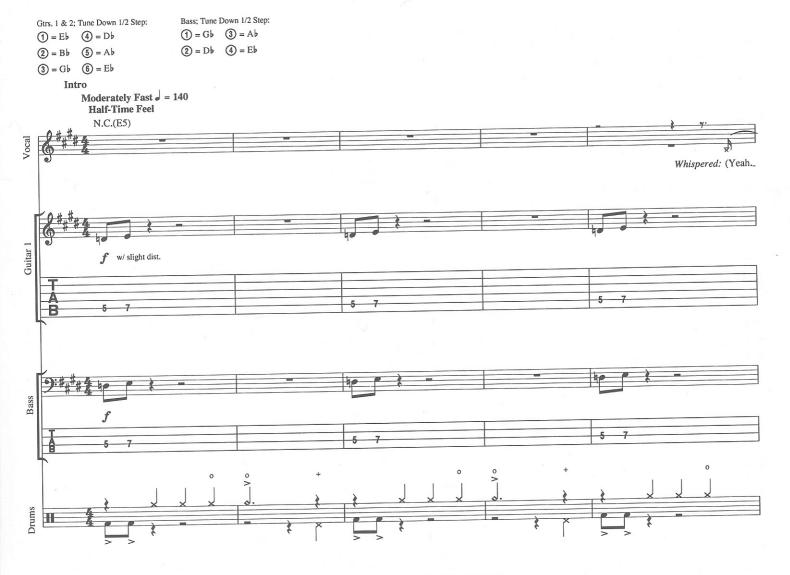


If 6 Was 9

Words and Music by Jimi Hendrix

One outstanding feature of this song is that during the verses Jimi doubles his vocal line with the guitar. This device was first used, but to a much lesser extent, in the guitar solo to "Manic Depression" from *Are You Experienced?* There, it was done in unison instead of an octave below his voice, as found here.

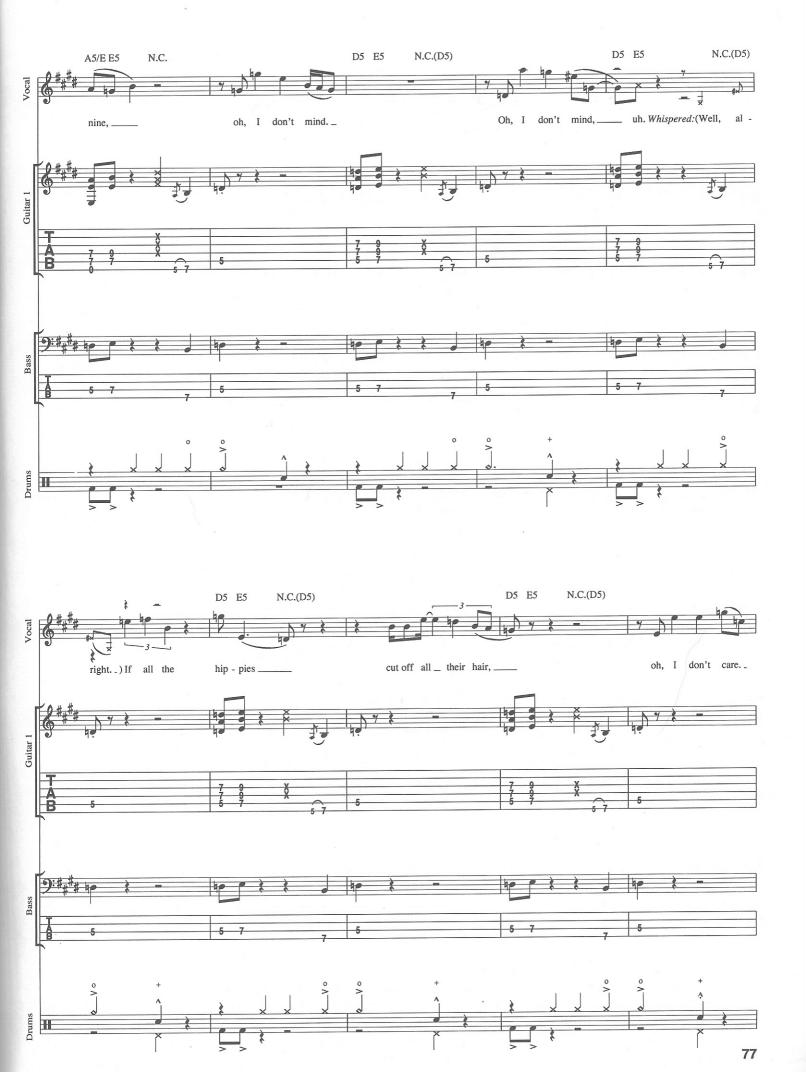
Moving along to the bridge, the format switches to chordal accompaniment and the song's momentum builds. Jimi's penchant for lush, complex voicings is evident as he opts to use ninth chords for the first three chords in this descending progression. From a theoretical standpoint, this form naturally occurs when harmonizing on the dominant or fifth degree of a major scale. For example, if we took the D major scale (D E F# G A B C#) and began constructing a chord on A, the fifth degree, by superimposing intervals of a third (tertian harmony), our first true chord would be a major triad consisting of A, C# and E. Continuing in the same manner will result in various harmonic extensions (7, 9, 11 and 13), but for our purposes we'll just require the seventh, G, and then replace the third, C#, with the second, B, to form the ninth.



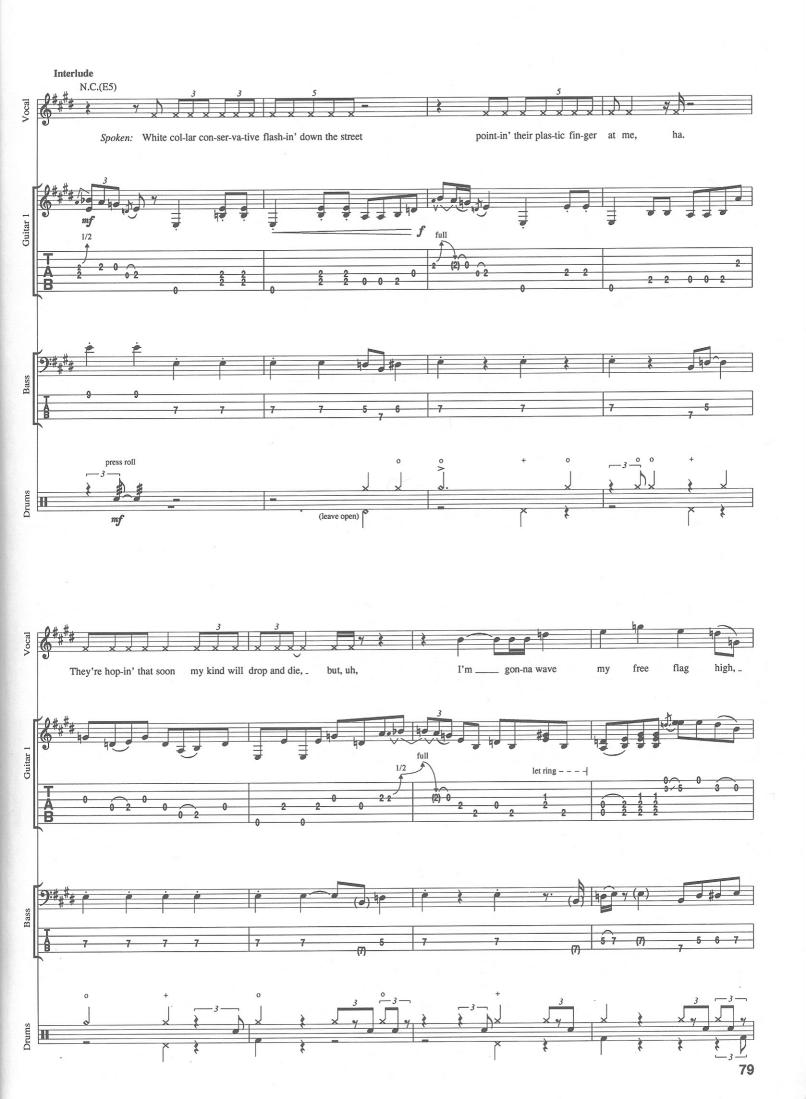


















































You Got Me Floatin'

Words and Music by Jimi Hendrix

The opening guitar figure is in "reverse" through manipulation of the tape as on "Are You Experienced?" from the first LP. Check out the accompanying notes to that song for a detailed account of this recording technique and optional methods of replicating the "backwards" effect.

Jimi then shifts into "drive" with the funky main riff, resplendent with sharply attacked partial chords and muted strings. Note that all muting is done by the fretting hand versus the traditional palm mute.

The most notable feature of this cut has to do with its novel instrumentation. An eight-string bass is used in this piece and is prominent in the interlude solo as it is played in counterpoint to the guitar. For those of you unfamiliar to this type of bass, it is similar to the four string variety except for adjunct strings an octave higher to give the effect of a guitar doubling the bass part.







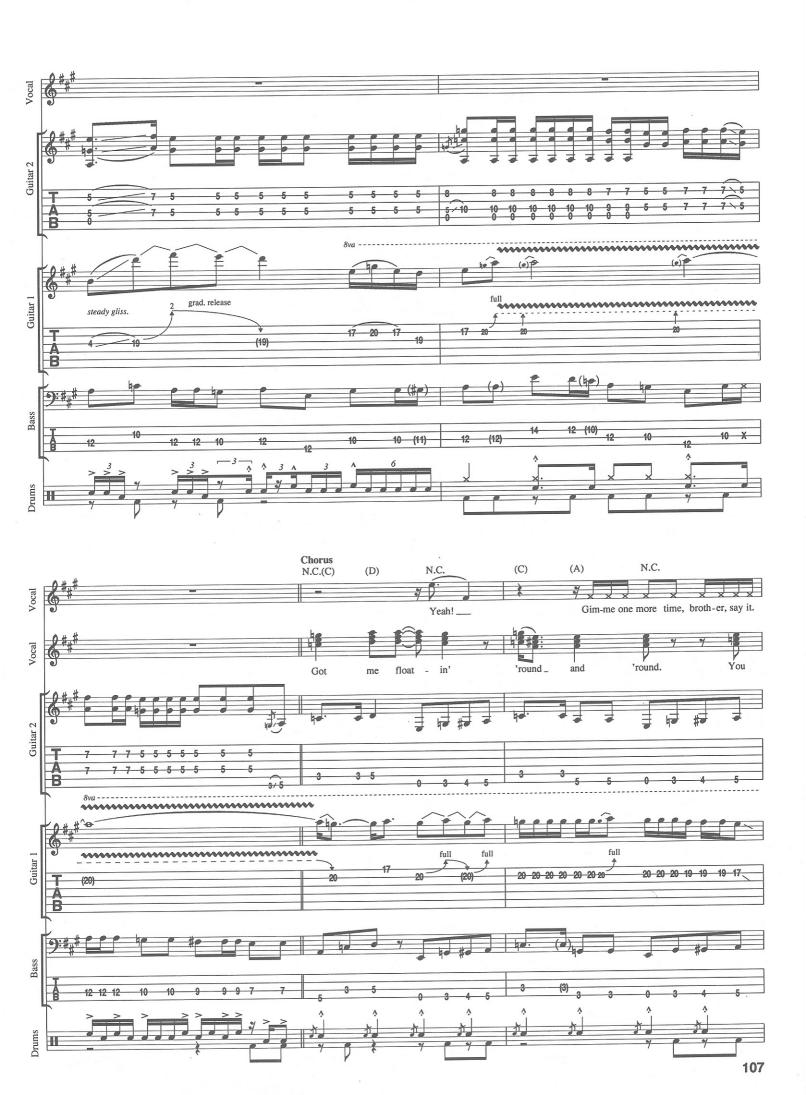
























Castles Made Of Sand

Words and Music by Jimi Hendrix

Whereas Jimi's anthem to nonconformity, "If 6 Was 9," was vehemently subjective in its declarations, here he is more or less a detached observer of life's ironies. There's even a certain pathos to the music itself which can be attributed to the fact that there are brief departures from the major mode to minor.

The first voicing, G5add 9 (also called Gsus2) has a rather bittersweet quality to it, being neither "fish nor fowl" (i.e. major nor minor), and then Bb, the minor third, is introduced by virtue of the parallel movement of the opening chordal figure and its recapitulation at the song's conclusion. Note also that the minor mode is inferred by the entrance of a Bb major chord in the last measures of the introduction.

As in "You Got Me Floating," there's that ubiquitous "backwards" guitar in the background, and this time it is also the solo instrument.

Memorization of this song is a must for any guitar-slinging Hendrix devotee. Just ask Frank Marino of Mahogany Rush fame, an "honor student" of the Jimi Hendrix school of guitar.

Gtrs. 1 & 2; Tune Down 1/2 Step:

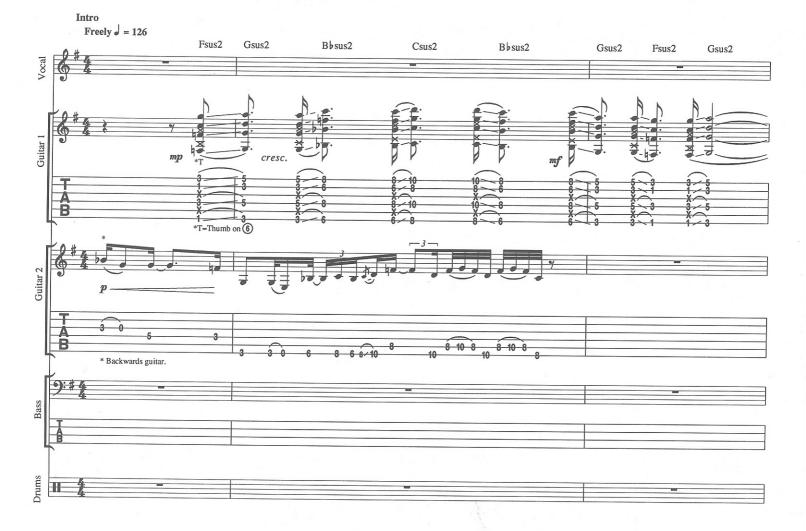
Bass; Tune Down 1/2 Step:

 \bigcirc = Gb \bigcirc = Ab

2 = Bb 5 = Ab

2 = Db 4 = Eb

 $\bigcirc 3 = Gb \bigcirc 6 = Eb$

















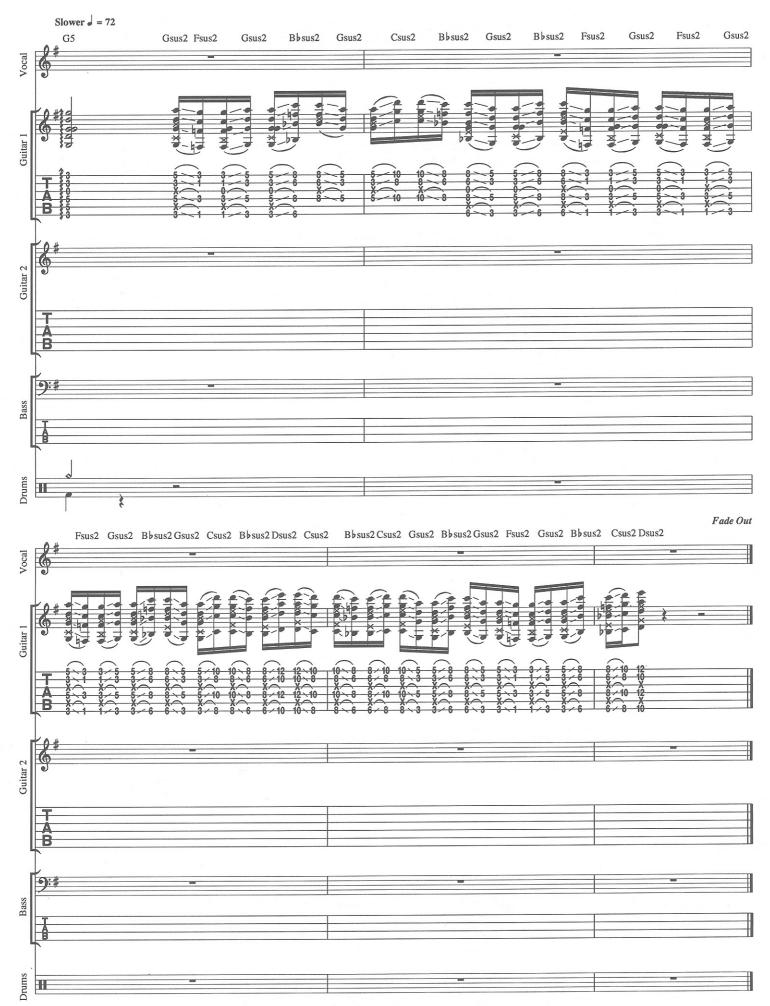












One Rainy Wish

Words and Music by Jimi Hendrix

Another of Jimi's "Honor Students," Eric Johnson, cites this ode to a dream as one of his personal favorites. It's also near the top of my list, primarily for its aesthetic appeal, but it has a sufficient amount of radical Hendrixian harmonic and rhythmic concepts to warrant some lengthy academically-minded musings.

To my knowledge, this was the first rock song to have the verse and chorus in different time signatures. Up 'til the last measure of the first verse it is in triple meter, 3/4 time, which is then replaced by the double meter, 4/4 time, of the chorus.

The harmonies contain numerous Jimi signatures, most notably by guitar 2 starting with the opening E6 chord and harmonization of the E major pentatonic scale (E F# G# B C#) in fourths, commencing with measure 6 to the exquisite A major add 9 voicing in the second measure of the verse. The guitar also has a decidedly "nasal" quality to it, due to the fact that the bridge and middle pickups were engaged simultaneously. This was before the advent of five-way pickup selectors on Stratocasters and Jimi attained this setting - erroneously dubbed by most as the "out-of-phase" mode - by first removing the spring from its precursor, the three-way switch. This setting is also employed in "Castles Made Of Sand, " "Wait Until Tomorrow" and "Ain't No Telling."







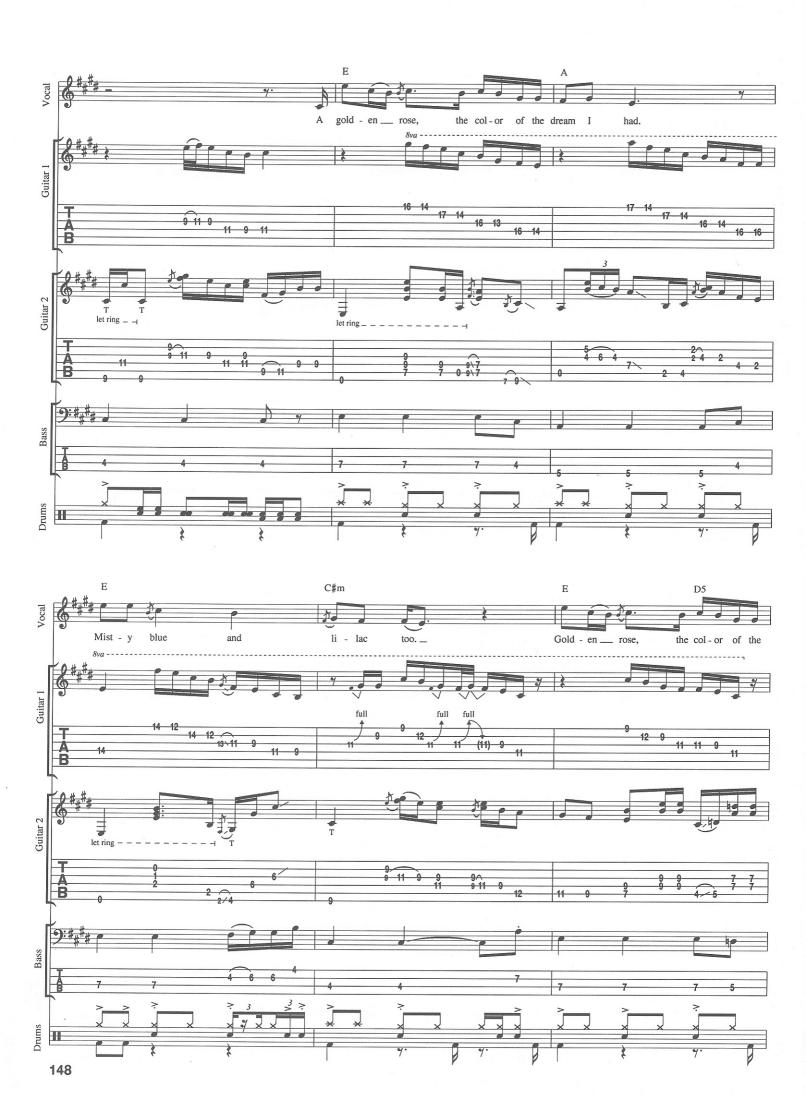


























Little Miss Lover

Words and Music by Jimi Hendrix

Mitch Mitchell's intro figure to "Little Miss Lover" exemplifies his uncanny knack for creating drum parts based on Hendrix's riffs. Other examples can be found in the introductions to "I Don't Live Today" and "Voodoo Chile (Slight Return)."

Throughout the verses, Jimi's guitar assumes the character of a percussion instrument, the result of using a wahwah pedal in conjunction with muted strings. Going into the lead break he switches on his Octavia, playing a solo that practically covers the gamut of bends idiomatic to the rock and blues genre. Just in case you're a novice to string-bending, take heed and be sure to place all available digits behind the finger executing the bend for additional leverage and support. Most bends are done with the ring finger of the fretting hand, so your index and middle fingers will be the ones assisting in pushing a string up to the required pitch.



Gtrs. 1 & 2; Tune Down 1/2 Step:

Bass; Tune Down 1/2 Step:

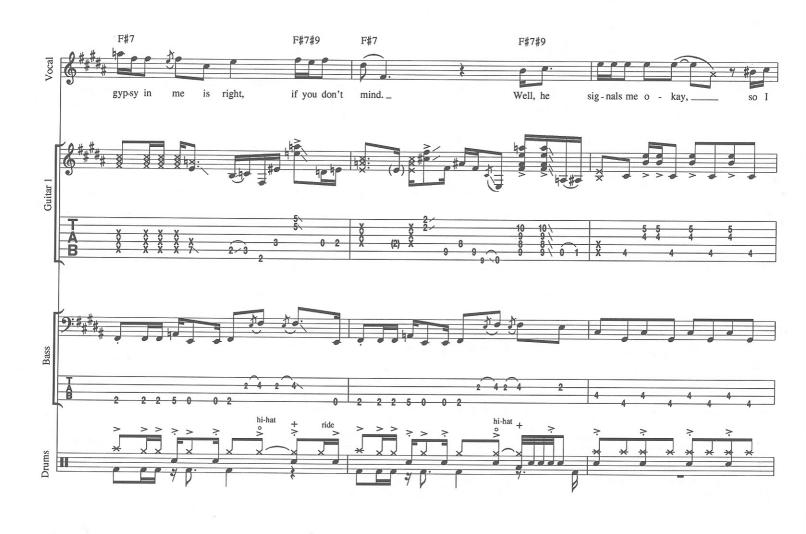




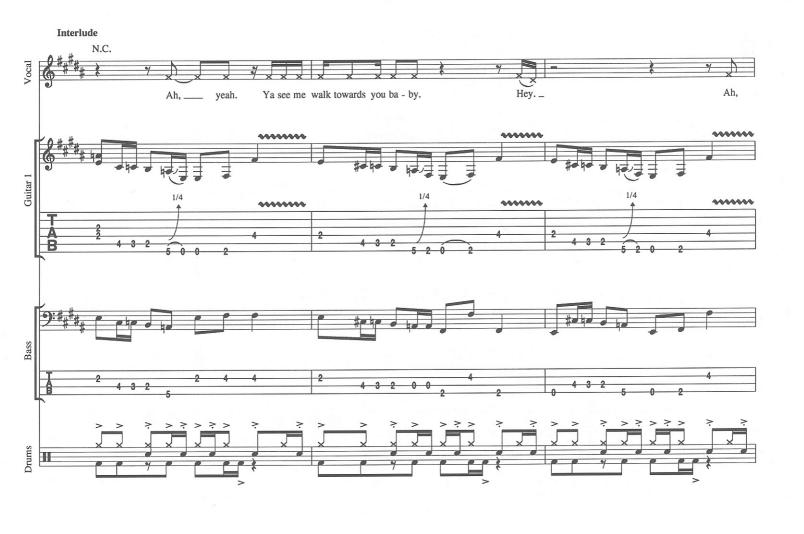


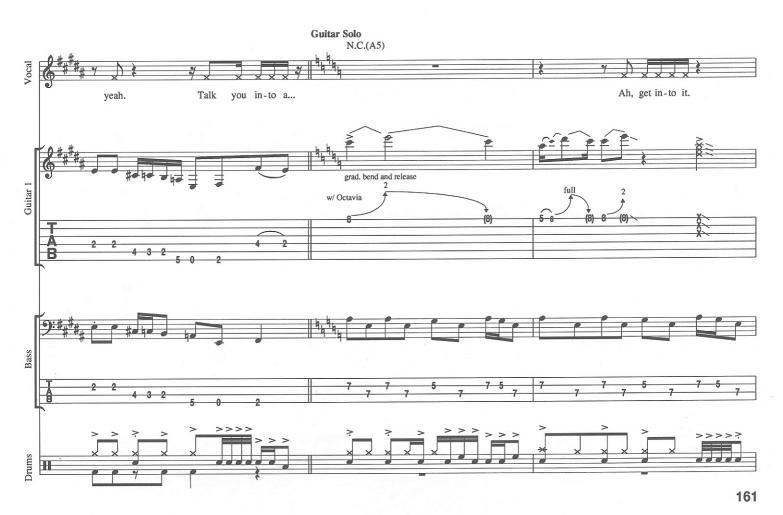


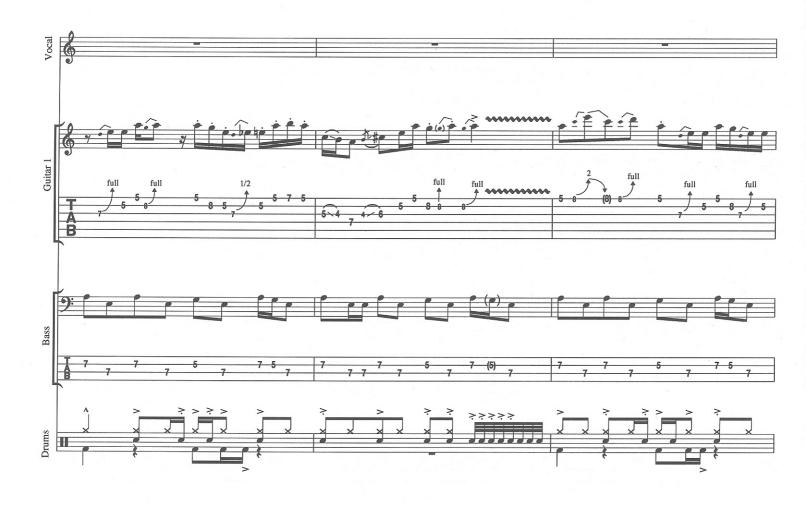


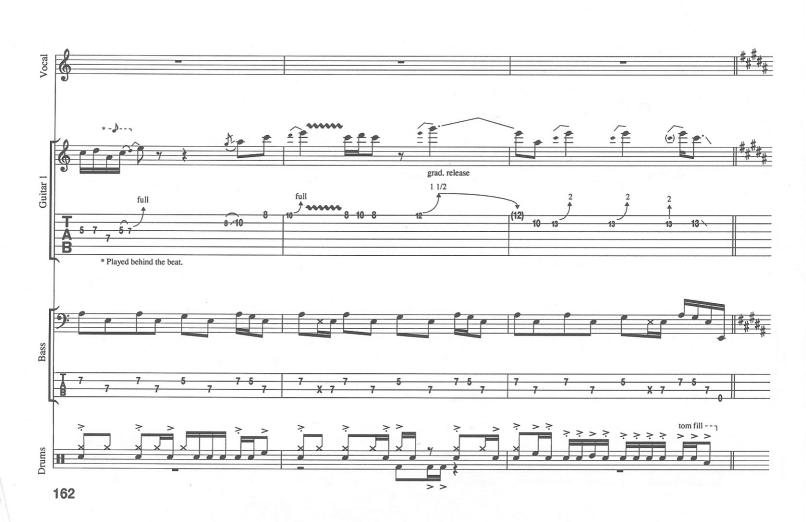




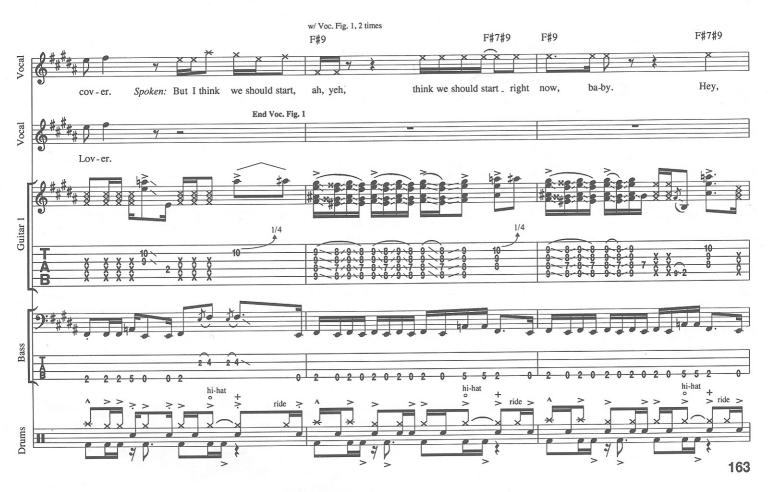
















Bold As Love

Words and Music by Jimi Hendrix

The flower of Jimi's lyrical genius is in full bloom throughout *Axis: Bold As Love*, especially the title cut, with its imagery and personification of the colors. "Lyrical" is also an apt adjective for his guitar playing, whether it be the chordal counterpoint within the verses or the lead lines during the majestic outro solo.

Examining the guitar solo from a theoretical standpoint will reveal why it works in relationship to the chord progression and should help you in developing your own melodies. For example, the solo commences on the root of the A major chord in the form of a string bend, then it moves along to roots of the next two chords in the progression, E major and F# minor. In the third and fifth measures he bends to C#, which is the third of the A major triad (A C# E), then releases it back to B, the fifth of the E major triad (E G# B).

Following this section, Mitch plays a brief solo interlude wherein his drums are colored by ace engineer Eddie Kramer with a bit of studio magic known as flanging. Current state-of-the-art technology makes this effect available electronically, but when *Axis: Bold As Love* was produced it was done mechanically. This required manipulating the reel flange (projecting rim) to one of two tape decks running simultaneously, with the thumb and mixing the resulting signal.

The music of the majestic grand finale seems to take flight and "kiss the sky" on its new course of C# major. Note that beginning with measure 11, Jimi uses arpeggios based on the C# - G# - A#m - B - B# progression, and fades out with tremolo picked partial chords.













































